

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/597,911

Applicant(s)

UHL, GUNTER

Examiner

ALBERT W. PALADINI

Art Unit

2836

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _____ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 April 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____

- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

1. This supplemental action is to replace the examiner's action of 4/12/10, where the examiner failed to consider the preliminary amendment filed on 4/22/08.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 13-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 13

Referring to lines 5 through 7, if the line is less than 2 m long, the cross section is less than 10 mm^2 , and if the line is greater than 2 m long, the cross section is less than 40 mm^2 . This means that if the line is greater than 2 m long, the cross section can also be less than 10 mm^2 , since a line of 40 mm^2 can also have a cross section of less than 10 mm^2 . It does not distinctly point out the difference in cross sectional area for a line greater than or less than 2 m long. The set containing a cross section less than 40 mm^2 contains the set containing a cross section less than 20 mm^2 .

There is also no antecedent basis in the specification which defines the cross sectional area for a length of greater than or less than 2 m.

Appropriate correction and clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 13-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bluemel (6,384,489) in view of Brunner (6,252,169).

In order to expedite and avoid piecemeal prosecution, the following rejection is made to the extent that the claims are understood, by considering those elements which are understood and interpreting their function in a manner which is consistent with the recited goals of the claims, and then applying the best available art.

In figure 1, (C3, L1) to (C5, L61), Bluemel discloses a motor vehicle electrical system including a generator G in parallel with a battery B1. In (C5, L10-18), Bluemel teaches the fact that the energy accumulator B2 can be a super capacitor in order to optimize the energy to the starter. Bluemel does not teach varying the cross sections of the electrical connection as vaguely recited in lines 5 through 7 of claim 13.

Brunner discloses an electrically conducting cable, and teaches in (C1, L14-32) how cables of variable cross section area are used in a vehicle for various consumers to optimize the cost of cabling. Brunner does not teach the variation in cross section based upon the length of the cable as implied in claim 13, but since the claim was not clear and there was no antecedent basis for this recitation, it was not addressed.

In order to minimize the cost of cabling used in a power distribution system in a vehicle, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Bluemel and Brunner.

Relevant Prior Art

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Harer (5,175,439) discloses a power supply circuit for motor vehicles, and teaches reduction of the cross section of power supply lines by increasing the power supply voltage.

Besnier (6,717,288) discloses a multiple voltage power supply circuit for vehicles, which utilizes a circuit to optimize the transfer of power using the same cross section in the loop. It is possible to transfer 115/14 times more power than on a vehicle equipped with a 14 V network, or 115/42 times the power than on a vehicle equipped with a 42 V network.

Godefroy (6,798,166) disclose an electrical power system for an automobile, and teaches the optimization of cable cross section by systematically controlling current and power. For example a voltage of 36 v is high enough to give a substantial power increase, without any current increase, and it is sufficiently low so as not to endanger users.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Albert W. Paladini whose telephone number is 571-272-3748. The examiner can normally be reached from 7:00 AM to 3 PM on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Jared Fureman can be reached on 571-272-2391. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

/Albert W Paladini/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2836

5/27/10